Background This poem by **Edward Field** (born 1924) presents a new version of a famous character in literature, the monster brought to life by the scientist Dr. Frankenstein. In the original story by the English writer Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, Dr. Frankenstein used portions of dead bodies to create a figure shaped like a man and then gave the creature the power to move and think by activating him with electricity.

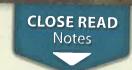
Frankenstein

Poem by Edward Field

- 1. READ As you read lines 1–12, begin to collect and cite text evidence.
 - Underline details that describe the monster's appearance.
 - Circle the pronouns the speaker uses to refer to the monster.
 - In the margin, explain why the villagers think the monster is dangerous.

The monster has escaped from the dungeon where he was kept by the Baron, who made him with knobs sticking out from each side of his neck where the head was attached to the body

- 5 and stitching all over where parts of cadavers were sewed together.
 - He is pursued by the ignorant villagers, who think he is evil and dangerous because he is ugly and makes ugly noises.
- They wave firebrands at him and cudgels and rakes, but he escapes and comes to the thatched cottage of an old blind man playing on the violin Mendelssohn's "Spring Song."





Hearing him approach, the blind man welcomes him: "Come in, my friend," and takes him by the arm.

"You must be weary," and sits him down inside the house.

For the blind man has long dreamed of having a friend to share his lonely life.

The monster has never known kindness—the Baron was cruel—but somehow he is able to accept it now,

20 and he really has no instincts to harm the old man, for in spite of his awful looks he has a tender heart: Who knows what cadaver that part of him came from?

The old man seats him at table, offers him bread, and says, "Eat, my friend." The monster

- rears back roaring in terror.

 "No my friend, it is good. Eat—gooood" and the old man shows him how to eat, and reassured, the monster eats and says, "Eat—gooood,"
- trying out the words and finding them good too.

2. REREAD Reread lines 7–12. Does the speaker share the villagers' view that the monster is evil and dangerous? Support your answer with explicit textual evidence.

- 3. READ As you read lines 13–30, continue to cite textual evidence.
 - Circle details that suggest the blind man's kindness to the monster.
 - Underline phrases that describe the monster's personality.
 - In the margin, write the reason the monster "rears back roaring in terror" (line 25).



The old man offers him a glass of wine, "Drink, my friend. Drink—goood."

The monster drinks, slurping horribly, and says, "Drink—goood," in his deep nutty voice and smiles maybe for the first time in his life.

35

Then the blind man puts a cigar in the monster's mouth and lights a large wooden match that flares up in his face. The monster, remembering the torches of the villagers, recoils, grunting in terror.

- "No, my friend, smoke—goood," and the old man demonstrates with his own cigar. The monster takes a tentative puff and smiles hugely, saying, "Smoke—goood," and sits back like a banker, grunting and puffing.
- Now the old man plays Mendelssohn's "Spring Song" on the violin while tears come into our dear monster's eyes as he thinks of the stones of the mob, the pleasures of mealtime, the magic new words he has learned and above all of the friend he has found.

4. Reread lines 13–30. Explain why the old man is quick to welcome the monster into his house. Support your answer with explicit textual evidence.

- 5. READ As you read lines 31–55, cite additional textual evidence.
 - Circle actions by the old man that are similar to those he has made before.
 - Underline details that reveal how happy the monster is.
 - In the margin, restate what will happen to the monster when the mob finds him.



being simple enough to believe only in the present—
that the mob will find him and pursue him
for the rest of his short unnatural life,
until trapped at the whirlpool's edge

until ligher silverys were also sensials that there up to the income. The monstery remainducing the turbes of the ulthouses,

- 55 he plunges to his death.
- 6. REREAD AND DISCUSS Reread lines 31–55. With a small group, discuss whether the time spent with the blind musician ultimately brought the monster more joy or more pain.

SHORT RESPONSE

Cite Text Evidence "We should not judge people by their appearance" is one of the themes of "Frankenstein." How do the events in the story and the characters' behavior convey this? Cite text evidence from the text to support your claims. of within the first the control of the first that the second of the seco